

Drawing Amendments

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1.

This sheet which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1. In Fig. 1, previously references characters "22" and "23" were changed so as not to designate the same part.

Please approve the drawing changes that are marked in red on the accompanying "Annotated Sheet Showing Changes" of Fig. 1. A formal "Replacement Sheet" of amended Fig. 1 is also enclosed.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-23 are now in the application. Claims 1, 3, 12, and 14 have been amended. Claim 23 has been added. Support for claim 23 can be found in Fig. 3. No new matter has been added.

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4).

The Examiner stated that the reference characters "22" and "23" are used to designate the same part. The drawings have been changed as noted above so as to facilitate prosecution of the application. Therefore, the objection to the drawings by the Examiner is believed to have been overcome.

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office action, the abstract of the disclosure has been objected to because it contains various grammatical errors.

The Examiner stated that in particular, the abstract is written as one long confusing sentence. The abstract has been amended so as to facilitate prosecution of the application.

Therefore, the objection to the abstract by the Examiner is believed to have been overcome.

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office action, the disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities.

The Examiner stated that on page 4, line 2 "provide" should be --provided--. The specification has been amended so as to facilitate prosecution of the application and now reads "provided". Therefore, the objection by the Examiner is believed to have been overcome.

The Examiner stated that on page 7, lines 5 and 12 "headss" should be --heads--. The specification has been amended so as to facilitate prosecution of the application and now reads "heads". Therefore, the objection by the Examiner is believed to have been overcome.

The Examiner stated that "blowing devices 22" should be --blowing device 22-- and "sensing elements 23" should be --sensing element 23--. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. Fig. 1 is a two dimensional diagrammatic view of a printing press. The leaders indicating these items point to the side of the elements and sufficiently support the fact that there is a plurality of the items. This does not require

any further clarification in the specification. Therefore, the specification has not been amended to overcome the objection by the Examiner.

The Examiner stated that two different reference numerals are used to indicate the cross-flow channel on page 8, lines 9-10. The specification has been amended so as to facilitate prosecution of the application. Therefore, the objection by the Examiner is believed to have been overcome.

In item 4 on page 3 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1-22 have been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that it is unclear as to the relationship between the lifting cylinder and the second cylinder. It is noted that claim 1 does not recite the limitation of a lifting cylinder. Accordingly, the Examiner's comments regarding the rejection of claim 1 are not understood. Regarding claim 12, claim 12 recites that the housing (31) defines a second suction chamber (33) coaxially surrounding the first suction chamber (26) for holding the lifting cylinder (28) and for reducing a lowering speed of the lifting cylinder (28). Accordingly, it is believed that the language of the second suction chamber surrounding and holding

the lifting cylinder provides sufficient structure for the lifting cylinder to have its speed reduced by suction/vacuum. Based on the above-given remarks it is believed that the claims are definite. Therefore, the claims have not been amended to overcome the rejection.

It is accordingly believed that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for cosmetic or clarificatory reasons. The changes are not provided for overcoming the prior art nor for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In item 5 on page 4 of the Office action, claims 1-7, 10, 12-18 and 21 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Juenger (U.S. Patent No. 5,447,300) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. The claims are patentable for the reasons set forth below. Support for the changes is found Fig. 3 and in claim 3 of the instant application.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 12 call for, *inter alia*:

a closeable cross-flow channel being operatively connected to the second suction chamber and having a connection to atmosphere.

It is noted that the corporate assignee of the Juenger reference is also the assignee of the instant application. Therefore, applicants are very familiar with the reference.

The Juenger reference discloses a spring-action suction head with a first suction chamber (4) and an annular groove (10), which coaxially surrounds the connector (3). The annular groove (10) is only connected to a suction connector (11) by a connecting conduit (12).

The reference does not show a closeable cross-flow channel being operatively connected to the second suction chamber and having a connection to atmosphere, as recited in claims 1 and 12 of the instant application. The Juenger reference discloses an annular groove that is connected to a suction

connector by a connecting conduit. The Juenger reference does not disclose that the annular groove is operatively connected to a closeable cross-flow channel that is connected to atmosphere. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which a closeable cross-flow channel is operatively connected to the second suction chamber and has a connection to atmosphere.

Furthermore, it is respectfully noted that the Examiner's comments on page 4 of the Office action that the second suction chamber (10 or 28) reduces the lowering speed of the spring-action suction head, is simply not correct. Column 6, lines 3-27 of Juenger (referred to by the Examiner) discloses that once the stop surfaces (8 and 9) separate from each other the force of the spring (16) and the weight of the sucker (5) moves downward. Accordingly, once the surfaces (8 and 9) separate, there is no vacuum in the groove (10) and thus there is no reduction of the lowering speed as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, it is respectfully noted that the Examiner's comments as noted above are not correct.

In item 6 on page 7 of the Office action, claims 8 and 19 have been rejected as being obvious over Juenger (U.S. Patent No. 5,447,300) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Since claims 1 and 12 are

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believed to be allowable dependent claims 8 and 19 are
believed to be allowable as well.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the
references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either
show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 12. Claims 1 and
12 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and
since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on
claims 1 or 12, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of
claims 1-22 are solicited.

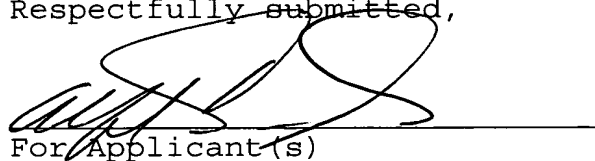
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims
to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone
call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked
out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition
for extension is herewith made.

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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner &
Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant(s)

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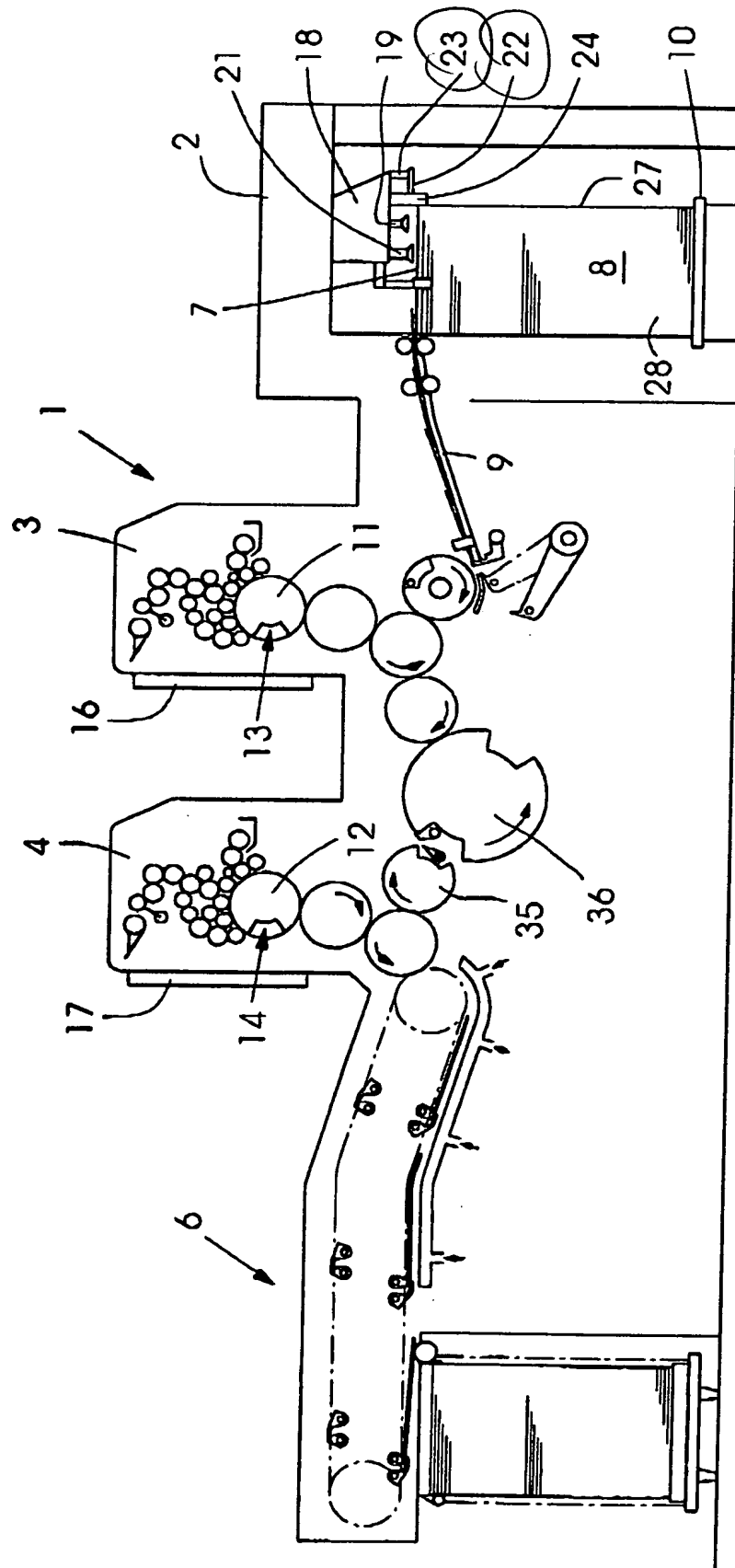


Fig. 1